

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Amended) A device for driving an actuator unit via a drive unit, said drive unit comprises a voltage supply input, at least one polarity control input, at least two voltage outputs, wherein the polarity of a signal at the voltage outputs depends on the at least one polarity control input with a signal, and a control input; and said actuator unit comprises a drive motor and at least two voltage inputs which are operatively coupled to said at least two voltage outputs, wherein the drive direction of the drive motor is determined by the polarity of the signal at the at least two voltage inputs and the drive motor is operated in at least one of the drive directions only when the control input is supplied with a predefined control signal.—
3. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the driving unit has a control output which is connected to the control input, and the actuator device has a second control input which is connected to the control output and is connected to an electronic unit which operates the drive motor.
4. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the electronic unit is connected, for its voltage supply, to at least two voltage inputs of the actuator unit via a rectifier bridge.
5. (Original) The device as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4, further comprising:
first and second polarity control inputs which actuate first and second change-over switches, respectively, the first change-over switch connecting, in the signalless state of the associated polarity control input, a first of said at least two voltage

output to ground via a measuring resistor and to the voltage input in the state in which a signal is supplied; and

the second change-over switch connecting, in the signalless state of the associated polarity control input, the second of said at least two voltage outputs to ground, and to the voltage input in the state in which a signal is supplied.

6. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein it is possible to carry out a diagnosis of the system in one position of the first and second change-over switches in which the measuring resistor has current flowing through it when the drive motor is supplied with voltage

7. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuator unit is a unit for locking the steering mechanism electrically in a motor vehicle, and the drive motor for locking the steering mechanism is capable of being operated only if the control input is supplied with a signal which signals a stationary state of the vehicle.

8. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein it is possible to carry out a diagnosis of the system in the state in which the drive motor is supplied with voltage in the direction of releasing the steering mechanism.

9. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein it is possible to carry out a diagnosis of the system in the state in which the drive motor is supplied with voltage in the direction of releasing the steering mechanism.